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VIRTUAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS OSCE WORKSHOP FOR POSTGRADUATE FAMILY MEDICINE TRAINEES 2023

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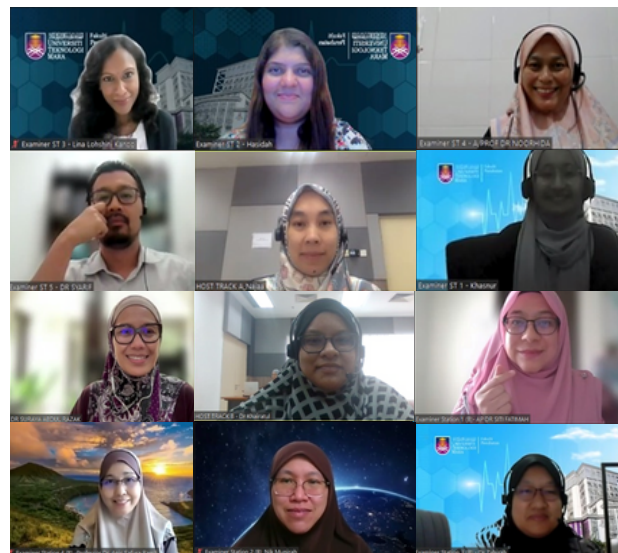
The Department of Primary Care Medicine UiTM established its Master of Medicine (Family Medicine) postgraduate course in 2011 as a member of the Specialty Committee of Family Medicine Malaysia. These trainees go through a 4-year program and sit for three professional examinations in stages, including Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) and Long Objective Structured Clinical Examination (LOSCE). This year, the department has organized a "Virtual Communication Skills OSCE Workshop" catering to postgraduate Family Medicine trainees all around Malaysia, focusing on communication skills with patients, which is an essential clinical skill to master as a Family Medicine Specialist.

Objectives of the Workshop:

- Provides exposure to the trainees on OSCE exams
- Allows trainees to recognize skills that need improvement as preparation for exams
- Provides a platform for trainees to get feedback from experienced examiners and discuss their performance
- Income generation for the department

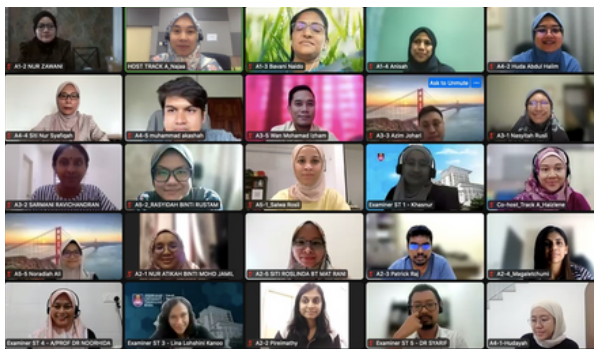
The Workshop

The workshop was held on the 23rd of September 2023 via Zoom online platform. A total of 50 participants from all around Malaysia, including Sabah and Sarawak par, participated in this workshop. The majority were postgraduate trainees from universities of the Specialty Committee of Family Medicine Malaysia, and there were also trainees from parallel postgraduate pathways such as the Malaysia-Ireland Training Programme for Family Medicine (MInTFM) and the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP).



Examiners involved during the workshop

The workshop started with a welcoming speech by the Head of the Department, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Fatimah binti Badlishah Sham. This was followed by a lecture on "Effective Communication Skills in Primary Care" by Dr Haizlene binti Abd Halim. The students then proceeded with the OSCE session, conducted by experienced examiners from the UiTM Primary Care Medicine Department. There was a total of 5 OSCE stations covering various clinical scenarios that require good communication skills. A professional primer acts as a patient in each station, and a designated participant will perform the OSCE while other group members observe. Following each 10-minute OSCE session, the examiner then provides personalized feedback to the participant and shares tips and wisdom with the participants.



Some of the participants

Feedback and Future Plans

The workshop received an overwhelming response; however, as we wanted to allow all participants to perform hands-on during the workshop, we could only accept 50 participants. The majority of the participants gave positive comments and requested that more similar workshops be conducted by the department on a regular basis. Based on the written feedback from all participants, 100% of them answered "very informative/informative" and "very useful/useful" for the lecture and, all OSCE stations feedback sessions and the overall running of the course. Due to the success of this workshop, the department plans to organize more workshops in the near future.



Left to right – Dr. Hayatul Najaa Miptah, Dr. Haizlene Abd Halim, Dr. Khairatul Nainey Kamaruddin, and Dr. Aiza Nur Izdiyar as event coordinators.